AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An intervertebral implant~~, in particular an intervertebral implant,~~ comprising:

(A) two articulating parts ~~(4; 5)~~ each having a central axis ~~(1; 26)~~, each having a slide surface ~~(6; 7)~~ intersecting the central axes ~~(1; 26)~~ and each having an outermost end ~~(14; 15)~~ that can be connected to a bone, wherein:

(B) the slide surfaces ~~(6; 7)~~ are curved,

(C) the slide surfaces are mutually displaceable, and

(D) the second slide surface ~~(5)~~ is rotatable about two skewed axes of rotation ~~(10; 11)~~ relative to the first articulating part ~~(4)~~,

(E) the outermost ends ~~(14; 15)~~ of the articulating parts each comprise a connection element ~~(2; 3)~~, wherein:

(F) [a] at least one of the connecting element~~s (2; 3)~~ is fitted with an oval recess ~~(37)~~ coaxial with the central axis ~~(1; 26)~~, the at least one oval recess being sized and configured to receive one of the outermost ends ~~(14; 15)~~ of the adjoining articulating part ~~(4; 5)~~; wherein:

(G) the recess ~~(37)~~ is fitted with an axially terminal cavity ~~(39)~~ and the adjoining outermost end ~~(14; 15)~~ of the adjacent articulating part ~~(4; 5)~~ comprises a widening ~~(38)~~ coaxial with the central axis ~~(1; 26)~~, said widening being insertable into the cavity ~~(39)~~ so that said at least one articulating part is slideably displaceable with respect to said adjoining connecting element, and

(H) the slide surfaces ~~(6; 7)~~ are saddle-shaped.

2. (currently amended) The implant as claimed in claim 1, wherein the slide surfaces ~~(6; 7)~~ each comprise a saddle point.

3. (currently amended) The implant as claimed in claim 1, wherein the axes of rotation ~~(10; 11)~~ cross each other at an angle between about 80 to 100 degrees.

4. (currently amended) The implant as claimed in claim 1 wherein the axes of rotation ~~(10; 11)~~ are spaced apart from one another a minimum distance A that is between about 0.1 to 20 mm.

5. (previously presented) The implant as claimed in claim 4, wherein the distance A is between about 2 to 20 mm.

6. (currently amended) The implant as claimed in claim 1. wherein the slide surfaces ~~(6; 7)~~ each comprise a saddle-point ~~(8; 9)~~ and wherein, when the second articulating part ~~(5)~~ is rotated about either one of the axes of rotation ~~(10; 11)~~, the second saddle point ~~(9)~~ moves along an arc of circle ~~(12; 14)~~ concentric with said either one of the exes of rotation ~~(10; 11)~~.

7. (currently amended) The implant as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in an initial position, the slide surfaces ~~(6; 7)~~ are congruent at coaxial central axes ~~(1; 26)~~ of the articulating parts ~~(4; 5)~~.

8. (currently amended) The implant as claimed in claim 1, wherein the connection elements ~~(2; 3)~~ are designed as cover plates ~~(12; 13)~~ having an axially outermost surface ~~(16; 17)~~ transverse to the central axes ~~(1; 26)~~.

9. (currently amended) The implant as claimed in claim 8, wherein one of the cover plates ~~(12; 13)~~ is integral with the adjoining articulating part ~~(5)~~.

10. (currently amended) The implant as claimed in claim 8, wherein one of the cover plates ~~(12)~~ is fitted with a guide ~~(20)~~ perpendicular to one of the central axes ~~(1)~~ and wherein the adjoining articulating part ~~(4)~~ comprises a rear end ~~(14)~~ insertable into the guide ~~(20)~~.

11. (currently amended) The implant as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the articulating parts (4; 5) is rotated about its central axis (1; 26) in order to be assembled to the associated connection element (2; 3).

12. (currently amended) The implant as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the articulating parts ~~(4; 5)~~ is displaced in a plane perpendicular to its central axis ~~(1; 26)~~ in order to be assembled to the associated connection element ~~(2; 3)~~.

13. (currently amended) The implant as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the articulating parts ~~(4; 5)~~ is displaced in a plane perpendicular to its central axis ~~(1; 26)~~ in order to be assembled to the associated connection element ~~(2; 3)~~

14. (currently amended) The implant as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the articulating parts ~~(4; 5)~~ is made of plastic.

15. (currently amended) The implant as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the articulating parts ~~(4; 5)~~ is made of a ceramic.

16-18. (canceled)

19. (new) An intervertebral implant for implantation between first and second vertebra, said implant comprising:

a first end plate having an inner side and a first bone contacting surface, said first bone contacting surface being sized and configured to contact said first vertebra;

a second end plate having an inner side and a second bone contacting surface, said second bone contacting surface being sized and configured to contact said second vertebra;

a first member having a first end and a second end, said first end being sized and configured to contact said first end plate, said second end having a first saddle-shaped contact surface; and

a second member having a first end and a second end, said first end being sized and configured to contact said second end plate, said second end having a second saddle-shaped contact surface for contacting said first saddle-shaped contact surface of said first member, said first and second saddle-shaped contact surfaces being sized and configured to permit said first member to articulate with respect to said second member along said first and second saddle-shaped contact surfaces;

wherein said inner side of said first end plate includes a recess and said first end of said first member is sized and configured to be received within said recess so that said first member is moveable with respect to said first end plate even after implantation.

20. (new) The implant of claim 19, wherein said first member is slideably displaceable with said first end plate.

21. (new) The implant of claim 20, wherein said first member is sized and configured to be slideably displaced in a first direction but not in a second direction.

22. (new) The implant of claim 21, wherein said recess formed in said inner side of said first member is an oval recess.

23. (new) The implant of claim 19, wherein said first member is permitted to twist with respect to said first end plate.

24. (new) The implant of claim 19, wherein said first member is permitted to rotate with respect to said first end plate.

25. (new) The implant of claim 19, wherein said second member is fixed with respect to said second end plate.

26. (new) The implant of claim 19, wherein said second member and said second end plate are integral with one another.

27. (new) The implant of claim 19, wherein said first and second saddle-shaped contact surfaces are sized and configured to permit said first member to articulate with respect to said second member along said first and second saddle-shaped contact surfaces through a limited angle of rotation.

28. (new) The implant of claim 27, wherein said angle of limitation between said first and second members is limited by a portion of one of said first and second members contacting one of said inner sides of said first and second end plates.

29. (new) The implant of claim 19, wherein said first member is rotatable with respect to said second member about two mutually skewed axes of rotation.

30. (new) The implant of claim 29, wherein said two mutually skewed axis of rotation are separated by a distance A, said distance A being between 0.1 and 20 mm.

31. (new) The implant of claim 19, wherein said first and second bone contacting bone contacting surfaces each include a connection element for engaging said first and second vertebra respectively.

32. (new) An intervertebral implant for implantation between first and second vertebra, said implant comprising:

a first end plate having an inner side and a first bone contacting surface, said first bone contacting surface being sized and configured to contact said first vertebra;

a second end plate having an inner side and a second bone contacting surface, said second bone contacting surface being sized and configured to contact said second vertebra;

a first member having a first end and a second end, said first end being sized and configured to contact said first end plate, said second end having a first saddle-shaped contact surface; and

a second member having a first end and a second end, said first end being sized and configured to contact said second end plate, said second end having a second saddle-shaped contact surface for contacting said first saddle-shaped contact surface of said first member, said first and second saddle-shaped contact surfaces being sized and configured to permit said first member to articulate with respect to said second member along said first and second saddle-shaped contact surfaces;

wherein said inner side of said first end plate includes a recess and said first end of said first member is sized and configured to be received within said recess so that said first member is slideably displaceable, in-situ, in a first direction with respect to said first end plate but not in a second direction.

33. (new) The implant of claim 32, wherein said recess formed in said inner side of said first member is an oval recess.

34. (new) The implant of claim 32, wherein said second member is fixed with respect to said second end plate.